WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus management method comprising:

prompting the input of category information for classifying the idle situations of idle apparatuses;

prompting the input of idleness information for specifying the idle situations of said idle apparatuses; and

storing said idleness information in a memory device in which the idleness information is related to said category information.

2. The apparatus management method according to claim 1, wherein said idleness information is permitted to be stored in said memory device in response to the input of said category information.

3. The apparatus management method according to claim 1, wherein each of said idle situations is at lease one of the failure of, maintenance of, and remodeling of the apparatus.

4. The apparatus management method according to claim 1, wherein the category information stored in said memory device comprises a plurality of information, the plurality of the category information including a plurality of levels of hierarchy in which the different levels of hierarchy are related to one another.

5. The apparatus management method according to claim 1, wherein when said category information is

inputted, the input of apparatus identification
information for identifying an apparatus from another
apparatus is prompted.

      6.   The apparatus management method according to
5   claim 1, wherein:

      said memory device stores a maintenance
information table to manage maintenance information, a
remodeling information table into which remodeling
information is recorded, and a failure information
10   table into which failure information is recorded,
wherein each of the maintenance information table, the
remodeling information table, and the failure
information table is related to an apparatus master
table which identifies an apparatus from another
15   apparatus; and

      the idleness information is classified into said
maintenance information table, said remodeling
information table, and said failure information table.

      7.   The apparatus management method according to
20   claim 1, wherein:

      said memory device stores a failure phenomenon
data table into which failure phenomena are recorded, a
failure cause site data table into which failure cause
sites are recorded, and a failure cause data table into
25   which failure causes are recorded, the failure
phenomenon data table, wherein each of the failure
phenomenon data table, the failure cause site data

table, and the failure cause data table is related to an failure information table into which failure information is recorded; and

the idleness information is classified into the failure phenomenon data table, the failure cause site data table, and the failure cause data table.

8. An apparatus management method comprising:

prompting the input of at least one of category information for classifying the idle situations of idle apparatuses and idleness information of the idle apparatuses;

extracting related information associated with inputted information from a memory device in which the category information for classifying the idle situations of the idle apparatuses and the idleness information of the idle apparatuses is stored in advance; and

displaying said related information.

9. The apparatus management method according to claim 8, wherein the category information stored in said memory device comprises a plurality of information, the plurality of the category information including a plurality of levels of hierarchy in which the different levels of hierarchy are related to one another.

10. The apparatus management method according to claim 8, further comprising:

making a statistical analysis on the basis of said
related information and calculating the result of
statistical analysis; and

displaying the result of said statistical
analysis.

11.   The apparatus management method according to
claim 10, wherein:

the input of apparatus category information
representing the categories of said apparatuses is
prompted when said category information is inputted;
and

a statistical analysis of at least one of the idle
time and the number of idle events is calculated as the
result of statistical analysis for each piece of said
apparatus category information when the result of said
statistical analysis is calculated.

12.   The apparatus management method according to
claim 10, wherein:

said category information includes at least one of
failure phenomenon information and failure cause
information; and

at least one of the failure time and the number of
failures is calculated as the result of statistical
analysis for each of said failure phenomenon and/or
failure cause when the result of said statistical
analysis is calculated.

13.   The apparatus management method according to

claim 10, wherein:

apparatus identification information for identifying an apparatus from another apparatus and stoppers in charge who stop the idle states of the apparatuses in relation to the apparatus identification information are stored in said memory device in which the apparatus identification information and the stoppers in charge are related to said idleness information; and

the relation between said stoppers in charge and other category information is calculated for each of said stoppers in charge when the result of said statistical analysis is calculated.

14. An apparatus management method comprising:

displaying an inspection item display screen including the inspection items of an apparatus to prompt the input of inspection situation values for determining the inspection situation of each inspection item, the inspection situation specified in values;

storing inputted inspection situation values in a memory device;

making a statistical analysis on the basis of said inspection situation values; and

displaying the result of said statistical analysis.

15. The apparatus management method according to claim 14, wherein said statistical analysis calculates

the tendency of said inspection situation values to change at a plurality of inspection times for the same inspection item.

16. The apparatus management method according to claim 15, wherein the tendency of said inspection situation values to change is expressed by at least one of variations in said inspection situation value for each inspection time, the degree of rise and fall, and the continuity of variation.

17. The apparatus management method according to claim 14, further comprising:

determining whether the result of said statistical analysis meets a specific condition, after calculating the result of said statistical analysis, and wherein the displaying the result of said statistical analysis includes displaying a warning representation when it is determined that the result of said statistical analysis does not meet said specific condition.

18. The apparatus management method according to claim 14, wherein said inspection items are stored in said memory device in which each of the inspection items is related to an inspector in charge in advance, and said apparatus management method further comprising:

when said inspection situation value of an apparatus stored in said memory device has not been inputted after an elapse of a specific length of time,

giving a warning that prompts an inspector in charge of the inspection item to input the inspection situation value.

19.   The apparatus management method according to claim 14, wherein:

said memory device stores an apparatus master table for identifying apparatuses, a maintenance master table into which maintenance items are recorded, and a standard master table into which maintenance work standards are recorded, wherein said apparatus master table is related to said maintenance master table and said maintenance master table is related to said standard master table;

at least one of apparatus identification information for identifying apparatuses, inspection items, and the maintenance work standard is prompted when the input of inspection situation values is prompted; and

at least one of apparatus identification information for identifying apparatuses, inspection items, and the maintenance work standard is stored in said memory device when the inputted inspection situation values is stored in the memory device.

20.   The apparatus management method according to claim 14, wherein:

said memory device stores implementation record tables into which implementation records are recorded

and an inspection master table into which inspection
items are recorded, wherein each of said implementation
record tables is related to said inspection master
table for each category;

5   the input of said maintenance situation value is
prompted together with the input of the implementation
record; and

implementation records are stored by category,
wherein the implementation records are related to said
10 maintenance situation values.

21.   The apparatus management method according to
claim 14, wherein:

said memory device stores an implementation record
table into which implementation records are recorded,
15 an inspection master table into which inspection items
are recorded, and a work schedule table into which work
schedules are recorded, wherein each of said
implementation record tables is related to said
inspection master table by category and said work
20 schedule table is related to said inspection master
table;

the input of said maintenance situation value is
prompted together with the input of at least one of the
inspection items and the work schedule; and

25 at least one of inputted inspection items and
inputted work schedule is stored, wherein at least one
of the inputted inspection items and the inputted work

schedule is related to said maintenance situation
values.

22. The apparatus management method according to
claim 14, wherein:

5   said memory device stores a manufacturing section
table for identifying divisions that manufacture by
using apparatuses, a user table for identifying
operators who use apparatuses, and a person-in-charge
information table into which inspection items that

10   operators take charge of are recorded, wherein said
manufacturing section table is related to said user
table and said person-in-charge information table is
related to said user table;

the input of said maintenance situation value is

15   prompted together with the input of at least one of
operator identification information for identifying
operators and said inspection items; and

at least one of inputted operator identification
information and inputted inspection items is stored,

20   wherein at least one of the inputted operator
identification information and the inputted inspection
items is related to said maintenance situation values.

23. An apparatus management system comprising:

a memory device configured to store category

25   information for classifying the idle situations of idle
apparatuses and idleness information for specifying the
idle situations of the idle apparatuses, wherein the

category information and the idleness information are related to one another;

a first device configured to present a plurality of said category information to prompt to select at least one of the category information; and

a second device configured to permit said idleness information to be stored into said memory device in response to the selection of said category information, wherein said idleness information stored in said memory device is related to the selected category information.

24. The apparatus management system according to claim 23, further comprising:

a third device configured to request the input of a category information or a keyword used for retrieval in response to a request for the retrieval of the idleness information; and

a fourth device configured to read out said idleness information related to said category information or said idleness information including said keyword from said memory device.

25. The apparatus management system according to claim 24, further comprising:

a fifth device configured to make a statistical analysis on the basis of said category information and calculating the result of statistical analysis, wherein said fourth device outputs the result of said statistical analysis.

26. An apparatus management system comprising:

a memory device configured to store the inspection items of an apparatus and inspection situation values which determine the inspection situations of the inspection items specified in values, wherein the inspection items and the inspection situation values are related to one another;

a first device configured to make a statistical analysis on the basis of each of said inspection situation values at a plurality of times for each of said inspection items; and

a second device configured to output the result of said statistical analysis.

27. The apparatus management system according to claim 26, wherein said inspection items are related to inspectors in charge, and said apparatus management system further comprising:

a third device configured to give a warning that prompts an inspector in charge of the inspection item to input the inspection situation value, when said inspection situation value of an apparatus stored in said memory device has not been inputted after an elapse of a specific length of time.

28. An apparatus management program product which assigns a computer system a command to manage an apparatus, comprising:

a recording medium;

a first program code recorded in said recording
medium and assigning said computer system a command to
store category information for classifying the idle
situations of idle apparatuses and idleness information
5   for specifying the idle situations of the idle
apparatus, wherein the category information and the
idleness information are related to one another;

a second program code recorded in said recording
medium and assigning said computer system a command to
10   present a plurality of said category information to
prompt the selection of at least one of the category
information;

a third program code recorded in said recording
medium and assigning said computer system a command to
15   permit said idleness information to be stored in the
memory device in response to the selection of said
category information; and

a fourth program code recorded in said recording
medium and assigning said computer system a command to
20   store said idleness information in said memory device,
wherein the idleness information is related to the
selected category information.

29.   An apparatus management program product which
assigns a computer system a command to manage an
25   apparatus, comprising:

a recording medium;

a first program code recorded in said recording

medium and assigning said computer system a command to store the inspection items of an apparatus and inspection situation values which determine the inspection situations of the inspection items specified

5   in values, wherein the inspection items and the inspection situation values are related to one another;

a second program code recorded in said recording medium and assigning said computer system a command to make a statistical analysis on the basis of each of

10   said inspection situation values at a plurality of times for each of said inspection items; and

a third program code recorded in said recording medium and assigning said computer system a command to output the result of said statistical analysis.